

Suspect arraigned in three murders

FRI FEB 8 1985

Family says beating forced confession

By Harry Harris
The Tribune

Anthony Rene Wimberly, accused in three murders, was arraigned on 21 felony counts yesterday amidst allegations by his family and attorney that incriminating statements he reportedly made to police were beaten out of him.

Homicide Lt. Al Perrodin branded those allegations as lies and Deputy District Attorney Jack Quatman said a medical examination ordered by his office had found no evidence Wimberly had been mistreated.

Wimberly cast an occasional glance at family members and friends in the courtroom during the 20-minute arraignment before Oakland Municipal Court Judge Jack Gifford.

The charges against him include three counts of special circumstance murder, two counts

of attempted murder, three counts of residential robbery, two counts of armed robbery, two counts of rape, four counts of burglary and five counts of being an ex-convict in possession of a gun.

Charges against Wimberly include:

- The rape and attempted murder of a 12-year-old West Oakland girl Nov. 8.

- The murder, rape and robbery of Anna Arevalo, 24, shot repeatedly in her 83rd Avenue home Dec. 23.

- The murder of hair stylist Marilyn Moore, 35, and the attempted murder of her co-worker, Vickie Russo, shot execution style Jan. 24 in their Fifth Street salon.

- The slaying of Doris Wong

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project to buy her in.
the San Antonio Village housing
were not allowed to drive into
terday why the "dope fiends"
explained in court yes-

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Lee, 64, in her Joaquin Miller Road home Jan. 31.

Wimberly's next court appearance is scheduled for Monday, when he will enter pleas to the charges.

Defense Attorney John Burris asked that Wimberly be examined by a doctor at Highland Hospital because he was concerned about his physical condition. Gifford said he would have to be examined first at the North County Jail clinic before he would order a visit to Highland.

Outside of court, Burris and family members charged that Wimberly made damaging admissions to homicide investigators following his arrest Tuesday only after he was beaten.

Burris said Wimberly told him he was not struck in the face but had been choked and punched repeatedly in the stomach and chest.

Perrodin responded: "That is a lie. I personally checked him physically and asked him if anybody had hurt him and if everyone was treating him all right. He said he was fine."

He said Wimberly had been advised of his constitutional rights by Sgts. Jim Hahn and John McKenna before he had made admissions concerning his involvement in the cases.

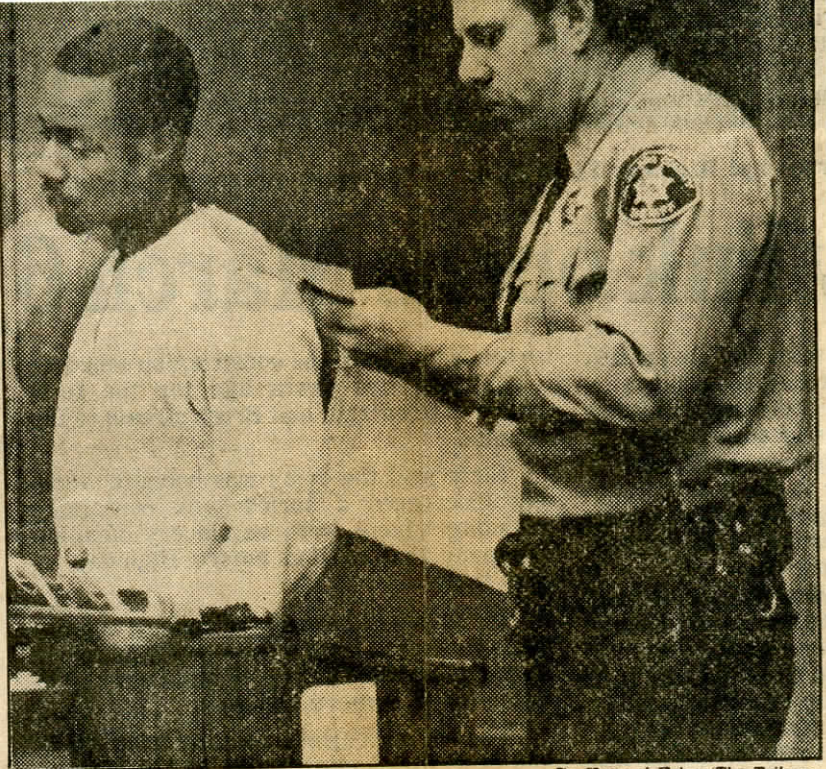
"All of the statements are on tape," Perrodin said. "If there was any beating going on, it would be obvious."

Deputy District Attorney Jack Quatman said his office was aware of the family's allegations and had Wimberly examined by a doctor.

Police also said when the district attorney's office interviewed Wimberly early Wednesday morning, out of the presence of police investigators, he made no complaints of mistreatment.

Perrodin revealed yesterday police have further strengthened their case against Wimberly.

He said witnesses at a police lineup Wednesday linked Wimberly to the rape of the 12-year-old and the shootings of Moore and Russo, and that jewelry recovered in Wimberly's apartment has been identified as having been taken during each



By Howard Erker/The Tribune

Anthony Rene Wimberly appears at arraignment.

of the incidents he is charged with.

Police had earlier said that besides Wimberly's statements, they had found his fingerprints in Arevalo's bedroom and had recovered a sawed-off .22-caliber rifle believed used in two of the slayings from Wimberly's apartment.

Police still are searching for motives for Wimberly's alleged chain of violent crimes.

Despite repeated brushes with police, dating back to when he was arrested for assault at age 14, Wimberly had always been seen by authorities as a quiet, reserved type who rarely revealed any violent tendencies.

Both in the California Youth Authority, where he served time for the assault case and later for burglary, and in state prison, where he served terms for burglary and robbery, Wimberly was an exemplary prisoner with no disciplinary problems.

His mother, Gwen Williams, says the portrait being painted by the police and media is "not my Tony."

She said yesterday her son "has never been violent like the people are making him out to be. He's always been quiet."

She talked fondly of Wimber-

ly's great love of sports, particularly basketball and football, which he excelled in while attending Castlemont High School, and of the responsibilities he assumed being the oldest of three children.

Wimberly, unemployed since December, earned his high school diploma during his detention at the youth authority.

Williams, a single parent, said her son "was the man of the house" for her and her two daughters and delighted in giving them presents and cooking special treats for them.

She said her son would never do anything like he is accused of and said news accounts had left the family devastated.

Through tears she said: "They've judged me and my son and my family wrong."

Kids and kidnappers

FRI JAN 13 1995

WHAT parent of young children hasn't worried about the possibility of an abduction?

Unfortunately, kidnappings have been well-reported crimes in recent years, helping raise the level of fear and discontent in our society.

Having mulled the possibility, what advice should parents give their children to avoid an attempted abduction?

A case in Oakland the other day offers one object lesson. A 7-year-old second-grader at Lakeview Elementary School used martial arts skills to fight off a man trying to drag him into some bushes near the school. The child also was able to provide police with a description, which authorities used to arrest a suspect shortly after the incident.

Oakland police officers praised the 7-year-old for his moxie. One said, "He was shaken up, but he pulled himself together and did a real good job." Another said the boy "was great."

The would-be assailant approached the boy at the beginning of a school day underneath a freeway overpass near the school. The man asked the boy if he wanted to go to Disneyland. The boy said no. The man grabbed the boy and started dragging him up a driveway to a bushy area.

That's when the boy engaged his karate

skills — he's been taking martial arts since he was 3 — by kicking the man's shins and thighs. He was able to free himself from the man's grip and ran to the school.

Fighting back, in this case, worked, but that's not necessarily the best response in attempted abduction, according to Capt. Al Perrodin, who heads up the Oakland Police Department's Youth Services Division.

While it worked for one youngster, it is not wise to teach children to fight an adult. "Tell your kids to concern themselves with fleeing," says Oakland Police Capt. Al Perrodin.

"When it works, that's great," Perrodin said of the boy's defensive skills. "Any kid learning some self-defense is a plus. But when they fight adults, they can get hurt. There's no way a kid, 60 or 80 pounds, can fight a

200-pound man."

Perrodin advises parents of young children to teach them to try to get away from a dangerous situation first. In certain situations, yelling, screaming, doing something disruptive to get attention of people nearby is a good strategy.

Using some force to break the hold of an assailant, perhaps in the manner of the Oakland 7-year-old boy, is also a good response if it leads to a swift escape.

It is not wise to teach children to fight an adult just for the sake of fighting. "Tell your kids to concern themselves with fleeing," Perrodin said.

That's sound advice for all parents with young children, whether in cities, suburbs or rural communities.

Knowledge will help keep your children safe

SUN JAN 15 1995

WHAT a story: a 7-year-old uses his martial-arts training to fend off a would-be abductor. Better yet, after freeing himself from the grasp of the stranger who's grabbed him, the boy gives authorities a good description, which they use to arrest a suspect.

Applause all around. Hooray for the kid.

But wait a minute. Is that what parents should tell their young children — fight back, kick an adult abductor in the knees and shins?

In our violent society, a physical response elicits ambivalence, because some people don't like the idea of reinforcing violence.

We can generally agree the Oakland boy in question, a student at Lakeview Elementary School, did the right thing and that he was fortunate to get away from potential harm and danger.

Capt. Al Perrodin, who heads up the Oakland Police Department's Youth Services Division, said when fighting back works in these kinds of stranger abduction cases, "that's great. . . . Any kid learning some self-defense is a plus."

He's reluctant, however, to suggest to parents they tell their children to fight back under all circumstances. "When they fight



William Wong

adults, they can get hurt. There's no way a kid, 60 or 80 pounds, can fight a 200-pound man."

That's self evident, and it would be nonsensical to tell your young children to duke it out with a stranger who's intent upon grabbing the kid.

Run and yell

Perrodin's advice: Tell your kids to flee dangerous situation. In some cases, yelling, making noise, creating a disturbance is the appropriate initial response, but the whole idea, the police captain said, is for the child to get quickly out of harm's way.

Gary Kinley, executive director of the Polly Klaas Foundation in Petaluma, has similar views.

"In general, the best advice to kids is to run, yell and tell," Kinley said. In the case of the Oakland 7-year-old, he said, "the kid was fortunate. Most kids aren't able to overpower an adult."

Born of the horrifying and sensa-

tional kidnap-killing of 12-year-old Polly Klaas, taken out of her own home by, police say, Richard Allen Davis, the foundation named after her is active in helping families whose children have been abducted or are missing under mysterious circumstances.

Kinley said he and his organization don't have a stance on whether young children should learn martial-arts skills such as kicking and hitting. "There are lots of ways to em-

'In general, the best advice to kids is to run, yell and tell.'

power children, and that's one way, but we don't endorse it."

Two people who do are Kate Hobbs and Anthony Daniels, who jointly run the Destiny Arts Center, a North Oakland martial-arts school for young people.

Hobbs said the case of the Oakland 7-year-old using his martial arts training to fend off an abductor is "great affirmation for a young guy who's spent years" in training, but she says a child doesn't have to sign up for formal training to become more aware of potential danger.

She believes "safety training" can be part of physical education classes in elementary schools, which sounds like a wise idea.

Hobbs and Daniels have a class for about 40 children aged 3 to 6, the "Teddy Bears," in Destiny Arts Center argot.

Be aware

"We teach them the 'five fingers of self defense,'" Hobbs said. That means teaching these youngsters to

use their heads and senses to be aware of immediate surroundings; to use their voices to yell, if necessary; to use their feet to run away; to use their elemental fighting skills of stomping feet, kicking shins, and clawing eyes; and to tell someone they trust about a dangerous situation.

She and Daniels approach the children not in a "scary way," but in an affirmative way, she said.

In talking with parents over the eight-year period she and Daniels have run their program, which has grown in popularity, Hobbs said

she's noticed some parents worry their children will be frightened by safety and self-defense lessons. Hobbs feels the confidence children acquire through this kind of training easily overrides whatever imagined fears they may have from being told of potential dangers of abduction.

Daniels makes a cogent point as well. He recommends that parents teach their young children some basic facts, such as the names of parents and guardians, phone numbers and addresses. Most young children know their parents as "mom" and "dad," but that label won't help authorities, should the child get into danger, Daniels said.

In an interesting twist, Daniels also said he and Hobbs tell young children that it's their job to watch after their parents in crowded places like supermarkets or stores. That way, the children won't become separated and therefore at risk.

It's an old lament to realize we live in an era when sickies grab children with impunity and when letting your child play in the front yard is an act of courage. Not acknowledging the potential danger is a lot worse than equipping a child with basic safety and defense skills.

William Wong's column appears in The Oakland Tribune on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.